

## POINTS OF CONTACT Team website: www.bridport-team-ministry.org

All phone numbers are Bridport (01308) unless otherwise stated

**Team Administrator** 

di@bridport-team-ministry.org

Team licensed worship leader

The office is currently closed but Di is available by email

Post: The Administrator, c/o The Rectory, 84 South Street,

If you cannot get to church and would like home communion or

a visit, please contact one of the lay pastoral assistants.

424747

423013

422096

423220

456967

426459

456967

07859 803734

07443 596096

459587

458999

Dianne Sinclair

Bridport DT6 3NW

Martin Whiting

Phil Doughty

Peter Wright

Coral Hatton

Caroline Cook

Anne Stone

Diana Wright

Carrie Gamble

cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

**Graham Purse** 

Secretary to the PCC Rosemary Russell

Licensed lay ministers

Lay pastoral assistants

**Team Rector** 

The Revd Deb Smith 301457 revdebsmith@gmail.com Day off Friday

**Team Vicar / Community Mission Partner** 

The Revd Pete Stone 426459

pete@bridport-team-ministry.org Day off Monday

**Team Deacon** 

The Revd Lorna Johnson

ms.lorna.dee.johnson@googlemail.com

**Team Curate** 

The Revd Helen Croud 07712 481835 helen@bridport-team-ministry.com Day off Friday

Permission to officiate

The Revd Janis Moore 425644

janis@bridport-team-ministry.org Day off Wednesday

The Revd Ann Ayling 424896

annayling7@gmail.com Day off Wednesday

The Revd Dan Shackell 426514

danshackell@gmail.com

The Revd Kay Watters 427290

kay@bridport-team-ministry.org

The Revd Philip Ringer (Hospital Chaplain) 425774

The Revd Peter Clark

**Cupboard Love food bank** 

philipringer@aol.com

Other churches in the area Hall bookings Halls are starting to open following the coronvirus lockdown. For bookings please contact:

Beacon Church Bridport, Priory Lane St Swithun's church hall 456031 office

Yvonne Welch

The Christian Fellowship Bothenhampton village hall

Pennie Jones (temporary) **David Collins** 458227 458006

Bradpole village hall

St Mary & St Catherine (Roman Catholic) please email bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Monsignor Keith Mitchell Church House, South St, Bridport 424754 presbytery Tony Nott

bridport@prcdtr.org.uk 422594 office 425897 Walditch village hall

clerkb@bridportquakers.org Peter & Jill Tobutt Bridport Quaker Meeting

Christian Fellowship, King Street 425738

United Church (Methodist & United Reformed Church) Jacquie Webb

01297 489658 Sue Herman, administrator Sue Herman 01297 489658

The Bridge Editor & production: Olivia Daly 07710 805029 bridgeeditor@icloud.com

Advertising manager: Laura Taylor 420732 lauraldt@btinternet.com

United Church

Please contact Laura Taylor for all advertising. Rates are online at www.bridport-team-ministry.org/bridge/advertising. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise send copy to village correspondents (details inside) at least three days before the deadline, or a week for handwritten/typed copy. We will try to include late copy in the following issue as appropriate.

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# Time is like an ever-rolling stream...

Yes, time is linear and therefore always on the move. November is a month of remembrances and for remembrance.

At the beginning of the month we remember All Souls' Tide, which calls to mind all the faithful departed. On the second Sunday of the month, we keep Remembrance Sunday and recall the supreme sacrifice paid by the 'Glorious Dead' (as the Cenotaph in Whitehall calls them).

I can remember the first weekend we had a television set in our home when I was a child. It was rented from a local company, had a large wooden cabinet, and the small screen was in black and white. It was November 1959 and Remembrance Sunday weekend. My grandfather was staying with us and we watched the British Legion's Festival of Remembrance from the Royal Albert Hall.

Grandad had been a member of the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War and a founder member of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918. He wept as he watched. Together we sat in silence observing both the TV and the tears streaming down his cheeks. Was he weeping for his former service colleagues who had been killed in action? Was he weeping for family and friends killed in the Second World War? Was he weeping for my grandmother, who had died three years earlier? I know not, but I do know that it was an accepted fact that he could weep, albeit in the privacy of our own front room.

We are in the business of being 'memory makers'; that is our vocation, our experience, our training, our heritage and our gospel.

There will be countless other stories to tell of personal and public grief across the span of time. All those losses are both personal and significant. Once we have been bereaved we are always bereaved, and time doesn't heal because it does not possess that quality.

In Jesus, death has lost its sting. Therefore we become people of hope. As we adjust and learn to live with loss,

we come to realise there are many other people in our own community, our own nation and across the world who are similarly bereaved.

When I was the vicar of Lynton and Lynmouth in picturesque North Devon, I had the privilege of helping that community 'commemorate' the 50th anniversary of the Lynmouth flood of 15 August 1952. On that occasion we released



The Revd Philip Ringer Chaplain to Bridport Hospital

34 white doves (one representing each life lost) from the Rhenish Tower at Lynmouth Harbour. Untrained, the doves flew straight up the river. Doves, of course, were the creatures that told Noah that the Flood was over.

I have discovered that with significant deaths, the use of stones can be helpful. After our elder son died 20 years ago, some friends took us to the beach at Seatown to throw stones into the sea. The throwing of those stones was extremely helpful. I kept a flat one that was suitable



for 'skimming'. I never did skim it, but it fell out of my coat pocket one day and part of it broke off leaving a very sharp edge. I replaced it in my pocket and found that, over the years, constant rubbing has worn off the sharpness, and the stone is now much smoother. That stone is

a rich metaphor for bereavement. It now has pride of place (pictured) among many other 'memory makers' in my study. Peace I give you, my peace I leave with you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27) The Revd Philip Ringer

# Moving towards winter – in a year like no other

Welcome to our November issue. The nights are drawing in and it's time to hunker down and stay cosy. This month brings the solemnity of Remembrance Day as well as the jollity of Guy Fawkes night, and although it looks like both will be marked rather differently this year, I hope you will be able to spend them in a way that you find meaningful.

Inside this month's magazine we look forward to the Bridport Literary Festival, which is going ahead despite the Covid-shaped challenges that have led to the cancellation of so many other events. This is due in no small part to the determination of BridLit director Tanya Bruce-Lockhart, who spoke to me about this year's festival highlights (p7).

We all looked for different ways of coping with lockdown, and on p6 we meet local musician Artey Williams, who used the time to write and record an album of Christian music using words by the Revd Barbara Glasson of the Methodist Church. I find his energy and commitment inspiring.

I hope you enjoyed our relaunch issue last month. As well as delivering to most homes across Bridport, we have arranged to have copies to pick up in various outlets in town, including the Tourist Information Centre, Aroma and Spar in South Street, Bradpole village stores, Skilling Stores, and the Spar and Harbour Stores in West Bay. If you aren't getting a copy, and you would like one delivered to your home, please let me know.



Olivia Daly Editor

Finally, I have a favour to ask. The Bridge already has a much-valued team of volunteers, but we need more people to get involved with distribution, administration and advertising sales. If you can spare any time to help, please contact me. We can't function without you!

#### Change of days for the Community Shed

The organisers of the Bridport Community Shed have announced a change of days for their workshop activities to allow time for thorough cleaning in between. The crafting and upcycling sessions are now on Mondays, while the woodworking sessions remain on Thursdays, both from 10am to 12.30pm at the Mountfield workshop near Bedford Place. Please drop them a line at bridportcommunityshed@gmail.com before going along so they can ensure numbers are at a level that allows social distancing. You can also find updates from the group on their Facebook page.

#### **Doctor Roberts will see you now**

Bridport Museum - home of fascinating exhibits about the town's history including its famous apothecary Giles Lawrence Roberts – has reopened after the Covid shutdown. The museum has received the Visit England 'Good to Go' charter mark, and has made some important changes to make sure everyone has a safe, enjoyable visit. Museum Director Emily Hicks says: "Everyone has been working really hard behind the scenes, and it's been a tough six months. We are a charity and have survived this period with grant support, but we are facing an uncertain future. We look forward to seeing you soon." The museum is open 11am-2pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10am-1pm Saturday, and is currently free to enter (donations are welcome). Please wear a mask. Full details at www.bridportmuseum.co.uk; the museum is also on Twitter @bridportmuseum and Facebook.



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- Child custody
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- · Collaborative solutions

#### For legal advice on family matters



Karen Watts

01308 555639

karen.watts@porterdodson.co.uk

21 South Street, Bridport

www.porterdodson.co.uk



The Revd Dan Shackell, priest at St Swithun's Church, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination with a special service there on Thursday 1 October. See the parish column on p12 for more details.

# 'Safe Spaces' launched as report damns abuse failings

As an independent report finds that the Church of England failed to protect children from sexual abuse, the Anglican and Catholic churches are launching 'Safe Spaces' a support service for victims.

The report, by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse, was published in October and found that the church created a culture where perpetrators could hide, often offering them more support than their victims.

In 2018, for example, more than 2,500 safeguarding concerns were reported to English dioceses about children or vulnerable adults. The report says the church did not take such allegations seriously and neglected victims' wellbeing in direct conflict with its mission of care for the innocent.

"It is a matter of deep shame that the church chose to put its reputation above the protection and wellbeing of children and young people who suffered sexual abuse," says the Revd Deb Smith, BTM Team Rector. "The findings of the independent inquiry are devastating. Hearing the accounts of those who had the courage to speak out only to be ignored and sidelined over many years is shocking and distressing."

Safe Spaces is run by national charity Victim Support, whose team of support advocates have undergone specialist training. It's a free, independent service for anyone who has been abused sexually, emotionally, financially or psychologically through their relationship with the Anglican or Catholic Church in England or Wales.

0300 303 1056 / safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk / www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

# More BTM churches open for worship

The Bridport Team Ministry (BTM) has taken a further step towards 'business as usual' with the opening of more churches for public worship.

The new pattern of services – which includes the resumption of worship at St Mary's in South Street – came into action on the first Sunday in October and will run for a couple of months as a trial. So far reactions are positive.

The schedule gives worshippers a choice of three churches on Sunday mornings, plus a range of midweek services. All the BTM churches are holding at least one service, including St John's at West Bay, which previously had not been open at all for private prayer but reserved for funerals. People wishing to come along no longer need to book.

"The new arrangements offer more choice and bring worship within easier reach of people in our parishes," says the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector. "I've been looking forward to us being a worshipping community again in the wider sense, so it's wonderful that more of us can be together."

The first service at St Mary's was Harvest Festival on 4 October. This year, rather than asking for donations of food, the team has been collecting money for the Farming Community Network (www.fcn.co.uk), a charity that supports farmers and their families through telephone and online helplines and, under normal circumstances, personal visits to farmers who need help.

The Sunday Eucharist each week is being streamed live, replacing the pre-recorded online service, and Deb says she hopes to build on this as more services are held. The live streaming appears on the BTM website and Facebook page, where it can also be found afterwards.

The new plan relies on all the churches being 'Covid safe'. This involves having someone at each service to keep 'track and trace' records, as well as stewarding to ensure social distancing. Each building also has to be cleaned throughly after the service if it is to be opened again within 72 hours.

'It's wonderful to be together again,' says the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector



The new pattern of services is as follows. This replaces the previous rota and churches will no longer be open for private prayer at other times.

longer be open for private prayer at other times.				
	Sunday	9.30am	Eucharist at St Swithun's	
		11am	Eucharist/family service at St Mary's,	
			South Street	
		11am	Service of the Word at Bradpole	
	Mondays	10am	Morning Prayer at St John's, West Bay	
	Tuesday	2.30pm	Service of the Word at St Mary's	
			(On the second Tuesday in the month	
			this is Eucharist instead)	
	Wednesday	10am	Morning Prayer at Bradpole	
		2.30pm	Eucharist (first Wednesday of	
			the month only – this is in addition	
			to the morning service)	
	Thursday	10am	Eucharist at St Swithun's	
		10am	Morning Prayer at Walditch	
	Friday	10am	Morning Prayer at Bothenhampton	
			(On the third Friday in the month	
			this is Eucharist instead)	
	Saturday	6pm	Evening Prayer at St John's West Bay	
			(fourth Saturday in the month only)	

# Helen is ordained deacon in Salisbury – finally!

The Bridport Team Ministry's assistant curate, the Revd Helen Croud, was ordained deacon at Salisbury Cathedral at the end of September by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam.

The ceremony had been postponed from early summer because of the Covid restrictions, although Helen was licensed online by Bishop Nicholas at the end of June. She joined the Bridport team in July.

Helen, who has three teenage daughters, had previously worked as a dental nurse, a business development coordinator, an administrator and at a Christian outreach centre before training for the priesthood at Ripon College Cuddesdon. She says: "Everything on our journey plays a part in our ministry. This year, I'm looking forward to learning, serving, and doing what God has called me to do. I'm most excited about being able to serve the people in Bridport in the ways they need me."



# Telling stories through music

At a time when music is proving a powerful tool in coping with isolation, we meet the man who spent lockdown making an album

Artey Williams is cool. He has a neat, trendy beard, an ageless twinkle in his eye and a soft Merseyside accent – plus he plays 12-string guitar, something he shares with Jimi Hendrix, Brian May and David Bowie. Yet here is a man with a deep Christian faith, which has shaped his life, brought him to Dorset, and led to his latest musical venture.

In the summer of 2018 Artey, a retired surveyor, was living in Liverpool. He was an elder at the United Reformed Church in Crosby, and played in a band, but he had a feeling that life was becoming stagnant. "One day, feeling rather low, I had an audacious moment," he says. "I was at home alone and I offered up a prayer, asking God what he wanted to do with me. Then my wife, Ally, came back and announced that we had to move – something had been triggered in her at the same time. I had my answer."

Nine months later they moved into their new home in West Bay Road. While researching different areas for the next stage of their life, they had spent a week in Topsham, Devon, where someone suggested visiting Bridport. "We came here on market day," says Artey. "In Bucky Doo Square there was a jazz musician – the Crooked Crooner



 playing the trumpet and singing. I just fell in love with the place." They came back for another week to make sure, then the plan was set.

Not only did Artey and Ally have a new life in Dorset, but an exciting new project was also just around the corner. Artey started going to services at Bridport United Church, where he still worships, and through the church heard about a Methodist minister in Weymouth who was looking for a guitarist to play at the Tolpuddle Festival in 2019. Obviously Artey volunteered for the gig, and at the festival he met the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, president of the Methodist Conference.

They had a quick chat, then later connected on Facebook and became friends. Artey read some of Barbara's poetry and prayers, and they resonated with him so much that this year he offered to put them to music. He says what followed was a "whirlwind of composition" as he wrote eight new songs in just over three months. "I had released an album of original music before, but this was the first time I'd used existing words. The notes just tripped off my guitar."

Because of Covid-19, he couldn't record in a professional studio, so instead laid down the tracks at home and taught himself how to use Garage Band editing software to 'tweak' before sending the audio files to be put together. "It was all fairly straightforward, thank goodness," he says. "To be honest it kept me sane during lockdown; it was a time of great focus and helped me deal with the isolation."

On the album Artey sings melody and harmonies and plays guitar, while percussion and keyboards come courtesy of Bridport band The Gravity Drive. The music is a little bit folky, with catchy, accessible melodies. The title track, 'Stories to tell', is about three women: Susannah Wesley, Charles's mother; Emma Pollard, the wife of a Methodist missionary who joined her husband in China then watched him die of typhoid; and Betsy Loveless, the wife of one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Other songs include 'The carpet of my life', written for the



World Day of Prayer, and 'Nobody told the spring', about the coronavirus lockdown.

"The Methodist Church helped to make it happen by sponsoring some elements of the production process," Artey says. "And we've sold 100 CDs so far, which is fantastic. I'm also excited to say that in the late summer I released one of the tracks, 'Sister Moon', as a single and it went straight in at number one in the UK Contemporary Christian Music Charts."

So what's next for Artey? "Barbara and I are planning to take the album on a live acoustic tour — Covid permitting, of course — and we've booked some March dates in Cheshire. And we already have six or seven songs for the next album — so watch this space!"

Stories to Tell on CD is £12.99 and is available online at www.arteywilliams. com/shop along with Artey's first album, The Dream of a Dream.

# A delight for literature lovers

There's a welcome glimpse of a return to normal activities as we look forward to one of the highlights of Bridport's cultural year...

#### Organisers of this year's Bridport Literary Festival are determined that it won't be another casualty of the Covid-19 crisis.

The 2020 festival (4–7 November) is going ahead, albeit with a few changes. It's four days long, rather than the usual seven, and social distancing regulations mean that the number of tickets has been reduced by half. Also, just two venues – the Electric Palace and the Arts Centre – are being used, hosting events alternately to allow for cleaning in between. But festival director Tanya Bruce-Lockhart (pictured overleaf) says ticket sales have been "going mad", and several talks are already sold out.

Tanya has headed up the festival team since its early days in 2005, when she nurtured its growth as an offshoot of the renowned Bridport Prize. She has lost none of her inspirational enthusiasm for the event and continues to secure speakers who fascinate and challenge audiences. So what's she most looking forward to this year?

"James Rebanks is going to be a highlight," she says. "He came to speak three years ago and since then he's published a new book, 'English Pastoral', which is a wonderful eulogy about nature. He inherited his family farm in Cumbria, where he breeds Herdwick sheep, and has brought back the traditional methods that his grandfather used there.

"I'm thrilled that Kim Darroch is coming, too, particularly against the backdrop of the US election. He was the British Ambassador to the US in 2016 when Trump was elected. He resigned last year and this will be the first time he has spoken in public about his experiences with the Trump administration." This event is sold out, so those quick-thinking people who bought tickets are in for a treat.

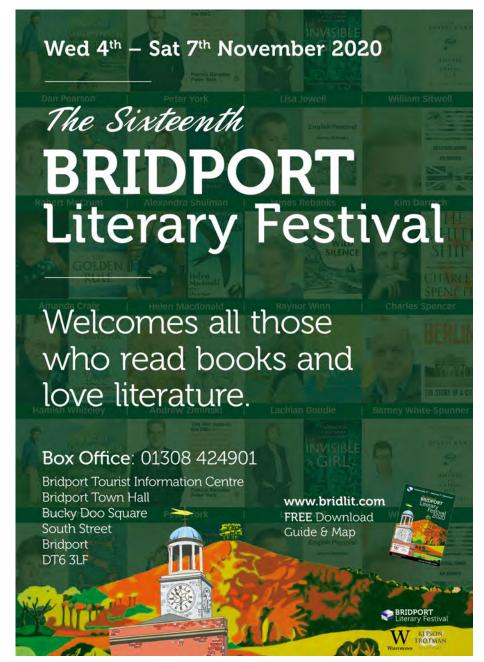
Also high on Tanya's list of hot tips is

Alastair Campbell, who will be talking about his book 'Living Better' on Thursday 5 November at the Electric Palace (this event is additional to the previously published schedule). "It's about his struggle with depression and how he manages it. I'm delighted that I've been able to persuade him here."

Other speakers include novelist Lisa Jewell, talking about her new thriller 'Invisible Girl'; historian Charles Spencer, author of 'The White Ship', a new book about Henry I; and garden designer Dan Pearson, who is pioneering a method of naturalistic gardening through his project at the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan.

One further change is that there won't be any mingling between the authors and members of the public after each event; no chance for a quick word of praise or dissent when getting a book signed. Waterstones will, however, have a pop-up shop somewhere between the two venues where people can buy the authors' work.

"We've had to put some restrictions in place to protect everyone," says
Tanya, "but I'm pleased to say that none of our authors have backed out. We →



# A delight for literature lovers continued

Pictured: Tanya Bruce-Lockhart at home with her dog, Lily

cancelled some speakers when we cut the length of the festival, so we're planning a long weekend [March 2021] of appearances by local nature and travel writers, including James Crowden and Sophy Roberts. That's something else to look forward to!"

For the full festival listing visit www. bridlit.com where you'll also find links to the two venues' websites for ticket sales. All tickets are £12 in advance (no door sales). The festival is also on Facebook and Twitter @BridLitFestival.



Photo: Robin Mills

# Biodiversity in the churchyard

Bioscientists worldwide report an enormous and continuing decline in wildlife diversity, and this is no less true in Dorset. Churchyards are usually agriculturally unimproved, so are ideally placed to support wildlife conservation.

In March 2019 'Walditch Gardeners' were given the opportunity to develop a small part of the churchyard for wildlife. The area allocated had been added to the churchyard in 1901, and although until then it had been farmed in some way, perhaps an orchard, had never been subjected to intensive agriculture. It can therefore reasonably be classified as partially agriculturally unimproved. Before we took it over, the area had been closely mown for a number of years.





Our objectives are to encourage wild flowers, bees, butterflies, moths and insects in general, small mammals and birdlife. The first year was primarily devoted to recording the existing wild flowers and, after consultation with the Dorset Wildlife Trust, developing a management plan for grass cutting and ways to increase wild flowers.

In autumn 2019, yellow rattle was sown on part of the area. This plant is weakly parasitic on grass, suppressing its growth, so its addition will eventually provide less competitive conditions for wild flowers so they can flourish more easily. We have repeated the sowing on a larger area this autumn.

Apart from encouraging the existing

wild flowers, we intend to gradually increase the range of appropriate native wild flowers. During 2020 musk mallow, field scabious, common (black) and greater knapweed were added and hopefully will establish and multiply. Red campion plants have been raised and half will be planted this autumn with the balance held over to the spring. Seed for some of these was collected locally from large colonies, and otherwise purchased from an approved source. We also plan to reintroduce cowslips, which once grew in the churchyard.

During 2020 just under 40 wild flower species and 11 grasses were recorded and a monthly list was placed on the church notice board. A consolidated list for the year is to be drawn up. Insects were recorded twice but their presence has generally been very disappointing, no doubt reflecting the reported decline in Dorset and elsewhere. We are fortunate to be able to draw on botanical and entomological expertise.

We support the Dorset Wildlife Trust's Living Churchyard Project, whose patron is the Bishop of Salisbury. *Robin Stapleton* 

## ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967 Churchwarden – Lesley Hill 422417 Director of music – Tim Linsley 07830 308701 Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

#### **Christmas is coming!**

Once again we are starting to plan the distribution of Christmas hampers and stockings to vulnerable families throughout Bridport. Last year we gave away 46 hampers and 68 stockings for Christmas Day. Usually we start our fundraising at about this time, but of course this year is different! Each hamper costs about £30 – some food is donated, but fresh meat, vegetables, and some other items have to be bought – and the stockings cost about £5 each. It is likely that both the demand and the cost will rise this year.

While exploring other fundraising possibilities, we are inviting all readers to 'Sponsor a Stocking' or 'Fill a Hamper' by donating money. You can do this online at www. justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hampersandstockings.

If you can't access the internet, you can write a cheque to 'St Marys DCC' and send it to The Treasurer, St Mary's DCC, c/o The Rectory, 84 South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW. Please write HAMPERS on the back of your cheque.



These gifts help to ensure that our most needy and vulnerable families can enjoy Christmas dinner and tea, and that children can enjoy the thrill of a 'visit from Santa'. Referrals come via Bridport and St Mary's primary schools, health visitors and social services, so we are sure that our gifts make a difference to many families in need.

Thank you for your help as we look forward to supporting our community at what can be a difficult time. From the hampers and stockings planning committee

#### November services at St Mary's

We are delighted that public worship has finally restarted at St Mary's. Dates during November are as follows (please see p5 for more information). Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 1	11am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 3	2.30pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 8	11am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 10	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 15	11am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 17	2.30pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 22	11am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 24	2.30pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 29	11am	Holy Communion

### **HOLY TRINITY Bradpole**

Village editor — Douglas Baldwin 424232 douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com Churchwarden — John Adams 425766 Tower captain — Peter Carnell 420716 If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (Wednesday is her day off)

#### **Obituary: Cecil Whichelo**

It is with sadness that we record the death of Cecil Whichelo in September. Cecil was a faithful member of the Holy Trinity congregation for 20 years, and of 'The Friends of Holy Trinity', of which he was treasurer from 2006 to 2011. He was also promoter of the 100 Club from 2006 to 2015.

Cecil will be remembered for his engaging smile, his kindness and willingness to help others.

#### Who are these?

They were girls who wore dark blue dresses with badges stitched on and they did country dancing. Can you guess?

They were Girl Guides, 1950s style, and I longed to join them. At first I was too young, but before long I had a blue dress and aspired to win badges.

I discovered there was more to Guiding than country dancing – indeed, when we lost our pianist, dancing went off the programme. But in those days we were free to roam the countryside and went on cooking expeditions (wood fire, no



1st Bradpole Girl Guides, c.1953. Standing l to r: Christine Kilgour, Tanya Stone, Mrs Ethel Highfield (Captain), Margaret Hallett, Elizabeth Dawes. Kneeling: Pamela Higgins, Christine Darby, Kathleen Spencer. Seated: Molly Hymas, Sally Smith, Jeannie Brooks, Thelma Andrews

paper, no more than two matches). We cooked by the Asker, at a spot we called Happy Island. When the cooking was done, we played stalking games around the trees and bushes.

Tracking was another popular activity for the summer months. I remember my patrol laying a trail up Yellow Lane, over the fields to Mangerton, and back along another lane. It was a long way, even for us, and we got a good telling-off, as it was getting dark by the time we arrived back in Bradpole.

This was the start of lifelong Guiding, making friends and learning skills. I am now in the Trefoil Guild, and Guides do very different activities. But there is nothing quite like sleeping under canvas and smelling of woodsmoke.

The Revd Christine Crompton (née Kilgour)

#### **HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...**

#### The DIY team has restarted work in the churchyard

The dates of our regular DIY sessions for the rest of the year are Tuesday 17 November and Tuesday 15 December, starting at 10am. If you can spare a couple of hours on either or both of these dates, this would be appreciated, and you don't have to be a church member. Of course, this is weather permitting on the day.

Tasks I am looking at are weeding, tidying beds, path edges, hedge trimming, etc. Please bring gloves, a kneeling pad, a bucket and any other suitable tools, as the church has only a few tools.

If you'd like to know more, please call me on 897695 (leave a message and I'll get back to you).

Steve Dove

#### **Services at Holy Trinity Bradpole**

The Bridport Team Clergy are pleased to announce that the church has been reopened, albeit in a limited way and only at specific times. The pattern of services is as follows:

- Each Wednesday at 10am Morning Prayer will be said in the first half hour, followed by a time of private individual prayer until 12 noon.
- On the first Wednesday of the month there will be a communion service at 2.30pm.
- Each Sunday there will be a 'Service of the Word' at 11am.

You are welcome to attend any of these services, but you must wear a face mask or covering to comply with the law, and please use the hand sanitiser provided and be guided by the stewards. Please also see p5 for more information.

The church will not be open at any other times.

### **HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton**

Village editor – Barbara Ffooks 423122 Churchwarden – Heather Purse 423220 Children & youth worker – Jean Mitchell 422127 Home communion – The Revd Kay Watters 427290 Director of music – Sue Smith 456955

#### From the village editor

Now the clocks have gone back and dark evenings are upon us, this month can feel somewhat gloomy and we're spending more time indoors. The season of Advent begins on 29 November and we are hoping to give the village a little Advent sparkle by decorating either the church or the grounds, depending on the latest government guidelines.

During November we are asking for anyone who is crafty, arty or likes sewing or knitting to make a display in an open wooden box with a theme to represent a day in December, as you would in an Advent calendar. If you would like to take part in this fun challenge, please phone Heather Purse on 423220 or email heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk to register your interest, theme and whether you would like a box supplied. The display needs to be in a wooden box for ease of movement and making it watertight if it is to be shown in the church grounds. Do have a go!

The village hall committee is slowly opening the hall to some of the existing groups who use it, one of which is the 'Move It or Lose It' exercise class run by Natalie Swanson. She passionately feels that it's important for people to keep moving in these strange new times. It is a very sociable class (although socially distanced!) and the programme is full of easy-to-follow exercises that help with strength, balance, flexibility and general fitness. One of the great things about the class is that you can be at any level of fitness to start – you can be seated, standing, or standing with chair support. People who attend classes say they have seen a real improvement in their lives, and not just in fitness. The exercises have helped them to lose weight and even to sleep better at night.

The hall committee has worked hard to make sure that everything is in place for classes to be able to return safely,



Keith Windsor and Sue Arthur during Ride + Stride

but places are limited so call first on 07897 684345 to book a free trial class or chat with Natalie about what's involved (also see her advert on p16). The classes are supported by 'Help & Care', a registered charity that supports people and communities to live independent and fulfilling lives.

Some other good news is that the film evenings will be back as soon as the committee can organise them, which hopefully will be by the beginning of next year. These evenings have always been popular and enjoyable, and no doubt many filmgoers will be delighted to see them return.

It was a joy to take part in the annual Ride and Stride event in September organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. On a glorious sunny day we were pleased to open our church doors and welcome 20 visiting participants. Holy Trinity fielded two cyclists and three striders who covered the churches in Bothenhampton, Bradpole, Bridport, Eype, Loders, Shipton Gorge, Symondsbury and Walditch. Thanks to everyone who supported the event, especially our participants and our very generous sponsors who helped to raise £400. The money will be sent to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust for use in the form of grants

#### **HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...**

to help with the repairs and improvements at our churches.

Thank you, too, to everyone who helped to tidy the Old Churchyard last month. Those who visit this area very much appreciate all the work done to keep it looking well cared for.

We need a new distributor to deliver The Bridge magazine in Nordons, off Crock Lane. If you can help please contact me on 423122.

Barbara Ffooks

#### **Services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton**

A little bit of 'normality with a difference' is gradually returning to Bothenhampton. Since 9 October Holy Trinity has been open for a weekly service of Morning Prayer at

10am. These services are on Fridays instead of the usual Sunday worship to fit in with the other Bridport Team Ministry churches and the availability of clergy.

On the third Friday of the month, which in November is the 20th, there is a very simple service of holy communion, also at 10am. The church will be open after all Friday services until 12 noon for those who wish to pray privately. Chairs have been set out at the correct distance and hygiene precautions are followed so we can keep safe (and please see p5 for more information). It is good to be back in Holy Trinity even if it is rather different at the moment.

November is when we think about those who fought, died or had their lives changed as a result of conflict. Remembrance Sunday is on 8 November when a short Service of Remembrance is planned for 10.45am.

#### ST MARY'S Walditch

Village editor – James Craddock 458725 Churchwarden – Chris Wellman-Herold 281096 / chris.w-h@hotmail.co.uk Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421 If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Ann Ayling 424896 (Wednesday is her day off)

#### **Friendship**

"We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain." (Nouwen)

I wonder how many people, during these months of pandemic, have come to know their neighbours, and even strangers, as friends?

My nephew, who has lived in the same house for over 10 years, being hugely committed to work, hardly knew his neighbours until the pandemic. He decided to become involved with Hedgehog Rescue and was accepted as a foster-carer for tiny hoglets until they had reached a viable weight and could be returned for rehoming. The smallest weighed only 110 grams.

Hoglets have to be cleaned out and fed every three hours during the day. As they 'wander', one of Jeremy's tasks was to visit neighbours and ask how they felt about providing access to their

gardens. He quickly came to know his neighbours as friends. So, have you made new friends over the past few months? And how did it happen?

Friends are a gift to us from God. No two friends are alike: each has his or her own gift, and, like us, limitations and weaknesses. We should enjoy them for what they are - without expectations - and offer them our unique, but limited, gifts.

The spirit of friendship is alive and well in Walditch, with or without hedgehogs! The Revd Ann Ayling

#### Services at St Mary's Walditch

A service of Morning Prayer is now taking place in Walditch every Thursday at 10am. Please also see p5 for more details.

#### The charms of Old Walditch

As a former visitor and now new resident I have quickly become aware of Old Walditch's charms; being located in the valley of a curved hill gives it a gentle, picturesque Dorset landscape.

The enforced tranquillity of the Covid lockdown allowed me to appreciate the variety and beauty of nature - especially at the Jellyfields Nature Reserve in Lower Walditch - alongside the various styles of residential architecture throughout the village.

During the last six months residents have also benefited from hard-working volunteers who have both kept up the friendly life of the village and maintained its attractiveness.

In the heart of the village stands St Mary's Church. For some time prayers for the Walditch community have been said bi-weekly by the Revd Ann Ayling in the churchyard among a few parishioners.

What does St Mary's Church mean to you? Some lines adapted from a 1913 poem by Joyce Golder may help during this Harvestide.

James Craddock

St Mary's Church stands proudly Anglican, Her modest stateliness, but old and worn Like aged mother, watching from the steep, The sacred garden where her children sleep, Waiting, in Faith and Hope, beneath the sod. Oh what sacred memories cling Around thy hallowed walls and seem to bring, With scenes too sweet and griefs too deep for tears! Those years have passed; close-linked around thy feet, With golden chain of memories, sad and sweet, Old time, with circle of eternal change, To meet in worship in thy hallowed fame; With prayer and praise another generation fills Thy old sanctuary among the Walditch hills.



### ST JOHN'S West Bay

Village editor – Sue Pollock 07903 558568 Chapel warden – Rosemary Russell 423013

#### From the village editor

The ever changing sea... While out running recently I saw the waves crashing up against the rocks, while the previous day the sea had been like a mill pond – what a difference! I'm sure I'm not alone feeling like everything is continually changing. All through the summer the number of swimmers in West Bay has been increasing, making a lovely sight first thing in the morning. They have made such an impression that there is now a book about them called 'Wild Swimming Through Lockdown' by Simon Jordan, a swimmer himself. This is being sold at the Cornish Bakery to raise money for The Burrough Harmony Centre, a mental health charity in Bridport. And although I haven't seen them, the Bridport gig rowers are back after nearly six months. They were lucky that their first day out on 5 September was a glorious morning. Let's hope there are many more days like that.

There was a service in September to commemorate the 8oth anniversary of the Battle of Britain, with members of the Bridport & Lyme Regis Royal Air Force Asociation (RAFA) Registered Members Group and supported by the Royal Naval Association together with Bridport's mayor, Ian Bark. The service was run by the RAFA chaplain, the Revd Janis Moore.

The West Bay Discovery Centre has been hoping to stay open till the end of October, having implemented all the new guidelines including the QR code. There is a Zoom talk by Colin Divall on 29 October at 7.3 opm called 'Do you really call that progress, Mr Marples?', about the politics of railway closures in West Dorset 1950–75. Tickets are available online at www. eventbrite.co.uk.

The West Bay Community Forum held their meeting, once again via Zoom, and discussed a number of issues including: the queueing for the kiosks, which had caused problems in the summer; the



location of the testing station meaning a reduction in car parking; and further information about becoming a litterand plastic-free area.

Environment Agency representatives were at the Salt House on 29 and 30 September to explain the next stage in the West Bay flood defences. Work will start at the end of November to create a sheet-piled wall to protect the Parkdean embankment. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of February but this is weather dependent.

At the moment no more future events are planned.  $Sue\ Pollock$ 

#### Services at St John's West Bay

It was good to hear that our churches are now beginning to open again and St John's will be open on Mondays for Morning Prayer at 10am, as well as being the designated funeral church. It will seem very different in the church as it has been set up to ensure Covid-19 regulations are followed. Please also see p5 for more information.

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Village editor – June Goodburn 423061 Churchwardens – Mandi Sturrock 420304 Jo George 426457 Children and youth worker – 423061

#### From the village editor

There are so many days to celebrate this month. The 1st is All Saints' Day and the 2nd All Souls' Day. The 11th is Armistice Day — and let's not forget the 5th, Guy Fawkes night. And of course we look forward to Christmas the following month. People who love the colder weather love this month, and the trees always look beautiful.

Will Remembrance Sunday be different this year? Will there be any parades? Whatever happens, I'm sure we will still wear our poppies with pride.

On 1 October the Revd Dan Shackell celebrated 25 years of ordained ministry. He was ordained deacon at Southwark Cathedral in 1995 and priest a year later, also at Southwark.

Father Dan has been a constant presence at St Swithun's for the past seven years and celebrated the anniversary with a service there for the Bridport team at which he celebrated and preached. In his sermon he referred to his many years working with homeless people at Spires in South London.



The Revd Dan Shackell at his ordination in 1995

He has asked to say a big thank you for the gift voucher from Smith & Smith and the other cards and gifts. I'd like to thank *you*, Father Dan, for being with us and for all your love and kindness.

June Goodburn

#### Services at St Swithun's

There is a slight change to the arrangements that have been in place since late July. There will still be Eucharist at 9.30am each Sunday, but the 11am service will now take place elsewhere. There will also be Eucharist at St Swithun's at 10am each Thursday.

Worshippers no longer need to book a place at any of these services. Please also see p5 for more information.

### **Bridport UNITED CHURCH**

Minister – The Revd Peter Clark 425978 Church secretary – Sue Herman 01297 489658 / bridportsec@gmail.com

#### incorporating UPLODERS CHAPEL

Correspondent – Carol Hall 423163 carol@gribb.plus.com

#### Ten things I've learnt in lockdown

- 1. You can still see people are smiling even with a mask. I delight at smiling at people while be-masked and delight even more when people see and smile back. Try it!
- 2. When you do get a hug, it feels 10 times as good as hugs used to feel.
- 3. What a wonderful thing the Great British Sense of Humour is, and such a boon in times of trauma. The jokes on social media relating to the pandemic, varying from the groan-worthy to the side-splitting, have made things somehow more bearable.
- 4. We in our churches have kept in touch in a remarkable way. People who have had virtually no contact with their churches for ages months, maybe, sometimes much longer have had phone calls from people offering to do the shopping or pick up prescriptions, etc., or maybe just keeping in touch. Emailing service options (or delivering written services to those who are not online) has been an amazing, effective logistical success, at least fortnightly and more often weekly. In my view it has qualified as Pastoral Excellence!
- 5. My perception is that most people I see are complying with Covid guidelines. Yes, there are exceptions, but overwhelmingly people hereabouts (and wherever I have travelled) have been remarkably sensible. "Do unto others as you would be done by" is not only a good rule to live by, but is also overwhelmingly what I see.
- 6. People need people. It seems to me than even introverts (as defined by Myer-Briggs, i.e. people who are very comfortable on their own generally and get their energy from within rather than from interactions with other people) are pining for more social contact. Someone said to me the other day a very heartfelt "I'm not lonely, but I do feel very alone in this period."
- 7. It's famously difficult to persuade church to change, but it has adapted to this crisis with amazing flexibility. We all know the jokes Q: "How many church members does it take to change a lightbulb?"... A: "CHANGE?" and yet, with lockdown we've seen a revolution in what is on offer. We've had meetings and services via Zoom (which I had not even heard of before March) as well as video services. It had never occurred to me before to open the iMovie app on my Mac, and I had no idea what it was for, yet here I am regularly video-editing. People are engaging with these new options and really appreciating them, with our videos being seen right across the world!
- 8. I initially worried about our finances, since giving is mostly associated with physical services and we didn't have any. Yet those who had already set up their giving by



standing order continued to do so, others set them up and cheques appeared in the post and through our treasurer's door, too. Thank you so much, folks, for the generosity of your continued giving.

9. People are tired. Indeed! We are tired of this difference, this weirdness, this disruption to our lives and we don't like the 'new normal!' We want it back like it was and it would be a foolish minister who denied this or ignored those who passionately say, "I just want it over!"

10. And finally ... God is here. I was tempted to leave number 10 just saying that - but you know I cannot. Because when I started this idea of '10 things I've learnt in lockdown,' I thought it would be five good things and five bad ... and yet that has not been the case. Despite the challenges of these difficult times, as I started writing I kept spotting positive things that somehow counteracted the negatives, or at least ameliorated them. I don't deny the negatives, but I am overwhelmed by the way we amazingly created humans have adapted, adjusted and blossomed in such adversity. And I can only conclude that this is because we were created in the first place by a loving God who is alongside us, encouraging, supporting and provoking us to respond positively and in original ways to what we are faced with. It might get worse yet before it gets better, but it will get better. And we will get there because God is here! The Revd Peter Clark

#### Sunday services at BUC (East Street) - all at 10.30am

1 November (holy communion)Peter Clark8 NovemberT Wells15 NovemberPeter Clark22 NovemberJ McGinlay29 NovemberP Kershaw

#### From Uploders Chapel

As I write this it would seem that the weather is much the same as at this time last year. Nature will do its thing regardless of what else is going on! It certainly has more of a feel of early winter than late autumn.

I'm pleased to report that the Ride + Stride event went ahead as usual. This year Joseph Pullan was our only person to ride for the chapel; happily he was sponsored to the tune of £620 and we raised a further £50 from the sale of plants, cakes and cuppas. Although no one who visited the chapel was allowed inside because of all the Covid restrictions, the weather behaved itself as usual and we set up a table under the chapel porch where we were able to have delicious prewrapped cakes, biscuit bars and individual cartons of soft drinks, plus we could make cuppas for those who wanted them. We set up a one-way system so we could maintain

#### **Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued..**

social distancing. A really BIG THANK YOU to everyone who contributed in one way or another to make this event a success and provide a feeling of normality for the day.

I am also pleased to write that on Sunday 8 November, all being well, we will be holding our second service since lockdown with the Revd Peter Clark leading us. Of course I am writing this before we have had our first service in October! I must admit that I have to keep reminding myself how early the magazine deadline is. No wonder I feel like Carol the Confused at times!

It is good to see how many people are maintaining a positive attitude at these times – the good old British Bulldog spirit. Perhaps we can have a Nostalgic November when we can remember happy times in days gone by. Look out all those old photos of family and friends and remember the fun times we had. Perhaps we should also

Uploders Chapel

remember the positive things that have happened during the situation



we are in at present for future nostalgic moments.

So keep up the good work, keep safe and keep smiling. Carol Hall

#### **Services at Uploders Chapel**

The Revd Peter Clark will lead the Remembrance Day service at 10.30am on Sunday 8 November.

# St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Monsignor Keith Mitchell Presbytery 424754 keith.mitchell@prcdtr.org.uk Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594 bridport@prcdtr.org.uk

#### Remember, remember...

It's not only Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot that we remember this month – November is dominated by remembering.



In the church the month begins with All Saints' Day, when we remember all those many good

and holy people who have left behind them a trail of light in the world. The people who, because they reflected the light of Christ, made the world a better place because they lived in it. We remember not only the great well-known saints through the ages but also those wonderful men and women who have influenced the world (and us) for good by their lives. Perhaps we think particularly this year of those who have lost their lives in the present pandemic because they put those lives at risk so courageously in the service of others.

On 2 November we keep All Souls' Day, when we remember our departed loved ones and speed them on the journey to the Father's house by our prayer. There will be a requiem mass in Bridport that day at 9.30am. This prayer will be echoed throughout the month in a novena of masses for the departed.

On 8 and 11 November we remember all those who have fallen in the cause of peace and justice in the world, especially in the two world wars and other conflicts. This has been a year when we have celebrated some important anniversaries, including the 80th of the Battle of Britain and the 75th of VE and VJ days. That spirit shown in the past of our country has been echoed loudly in the selfless and

courageous ways in which so many have responded to the coronavirus pandemic.

As Christians we always remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as the foundational motivation of our lives. He is the One whose light we reflect in all that is good in our society. Yes, remembering is important because it gives a sense of our identity as a person, a church, a country and a world. We are what we are because of those good and brave people who have gone before us, and in giving thanks for them we are inspired to make the world a better place because we have been part of it. *Monsignor Keith Mitchell* 

#### Services at the Church of St Mary and St Catherine

Sunday mass is at 10am. For other Sunday masses and daily weekday mass in the parish, please see our weekly newsletter on the parish website, www.bridportcatholics.org.uk.

## Citizens Advice

The local bureau is now offering limited drop-in sessions in addition to its phone and online services.



If you need help with benefits, debt, employment

or other issues, the best way to contact Citizens Advice is by leaving a message on 01308 456594 or Dorset Advice Line 03444 111444. You can also send an email to advice@bridportcab. org.uk.

If you are unable to leave a message or need to come into the bureau, very limited drop-in sessions are available Monday to Friday from 10am at 45 South Street, Bridport DT6 3NY. The sessions will follow government social-distancing guidelines.

The CA website www.citizensadvice.org.uk has a comprehensive range of information, including advice relating to the Covid-19 pandemic that's updated regularly when the situation changes. You may also find the government website useful: www.gov.uk.

# Get involved: local clubs, groups & societies

We are no longer carrying adverts from local groups. Instead, information about these organisations will appear in a listings format. From time to time we will focus on one group and give more information about its activities. Unless otherwise stated, all phone numbers are Bridport (01308).

**Please note:** most groups have not been active since the start of lockdown but we are giving their usual arrangements in the hope that things will get going again soon.

**Colmers WI** meets at the WI Hall in North Street. They hope to resume monthly meetings in October, but this depends on the hall being Covid safe. Contacts are President Gill Smith 301201 and Sarah Nicks 459855.

**West Dorset Flower Club** (Bridport) meets at the WI Hall in North Street with regular visiting speakers and demonstrations. For details phone 456339.

**Bridport Blind Club** is a social club for the visually impaired and will restart in 2021. Contact ian.ibbotson@ btinternet.com 01308 898484 or contact Leah Cross for personal or technical help 07789 997620.

**Bridport Stroke Club** meets weekly from September to Christmas and February to July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact the secretary, David Lawrence: dandhlawrence@gmail.com.

Bridport Hearing Club meets on the first Monday afternoon of each month at Good Books, Gundry Lane. Cost £1.50pp to cover refreshments. For details phone 862608. Probus, for retired/semi-retired professional men, meets at the Eype's Mouth Hotel on the third Wednesday each month at noon for lunch. Contact Graham Pitts 01297 561569. Burton Bradstock Duplicate Bridge Group meets on Tuesday afternoons 1.45−4.45pm at the village hall. Contact Kathy 485626.

## News from Good Books

As I type this we are open at limited times. However, by the time you read this our hours may have improved, so do check before setting out if you are planning to visit.

We have a nice selection of books at half price: '101 Places to Pray Before You Die' by Craughwell; 'A Friar's Tale' by Collins, 'A Priest Answers 27 Questions' by Kerper; 'The 10 Biggest Lies by the Enemy' by Strom; 'Archbishop Justin Welby' by Atherstone; 'An English Spring' by Murphy-O'Connor; 'Approaching the Study of Theology' by Thiselton; 'The Essence of Prayer' by Burrows; 'Adoramus Extra', a resource for cherishing the Eucharist, and 'Family Extra', a celebration of what it means to be family.

We also have all our regular products on sale, plus palm crosses in case you're keen to get ready for Lent 2021. St Mary's Old School, Gundry Lane, Bridport 01308 420483 / orders@goodbooksbridport.co.uk www.goodbooksbridport.wordpress.com Currently open 10am to 1pm, Monday to Thursday, but please check our website to see if times have changed.

Janice Collins, manager

Bridport Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings at the United Church Hall and hopes to resume activities in January. Contact Chris Walliker: cwalliker@btinternet.com. Bridport & District Gardening Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the WI Hall in North Street. Contact Peter Gough 459469.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) has regular Thursday talks at 2.30pm at Bridport Town Hall. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / sandylovelock@btinternet.com.

Dorset Wildlife Trust (West Dorset Group) meets at the United Church Hall on the first Friday in each month. Contact Monty Crook 423442 montycrook@rocketmail.com.

Disabled Carers & Friends meets every Thursday from 9am to 12 noon at Vernon's Court Community Room, South Street. Call in for a chat or advice. Email pete.bowditch@hotmail.com or phone 423620, 421213 or 427819.

Bridport Bridge Club meets Wednesday and Thursday evenings (duplicate bridge, good standard) and the first two Friday afternoons in the month (relaxed bridge) at St Swithun's Hall. Contact Roy Tarsnane 425298.

British Sugarcraft Guild meets at Groves' Ivy House cafe

## Bridport Hospital League of Friends

Although we haven't been able to open our coffee shop by the main reception this spring and summer, we have continued to show support for the hospital.

on the second Tuesday each month. Contact Jan 281085.

As the weather was so lovely this summer, the ward asked if we could supply some patio furniture for the balcony area off the day room. This was so everyone could enjoy the view of Allington Hill when sitting there.

During lockdown, when visiting for ward patients became very restricted, we gave funds to allow staff to buy daily newspapers for individual patients. This was very much appreciated. The Friends have also supplied funding for a new enclosed secure bicycle rack for staff.

We are hoping to stock and open our coffee shop in the spring, but to keep it open for more than a few hours each week we will need more volunteers to serve tea and coffee to people visiting the outpatient services.

Our grateful thanks go to the staff members who have happily bought and eaten our short-dated stock.

We have not been able to have an AGM this year as so few of our committee members have internet access. New committee members are always welcome. For more information please contact Heather Purse on 423220.







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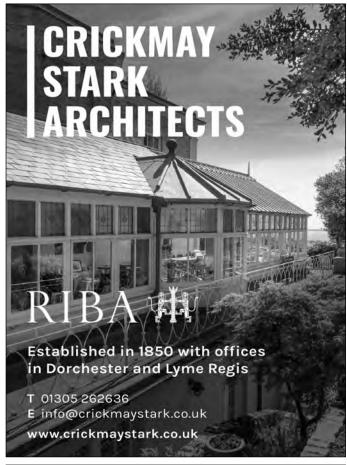
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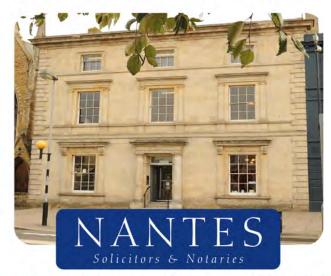
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